



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Health

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January 23, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION DIVISION**

On April 18, 2006, as a result of reduced State funding for inspections of health facilities and a resulting backlog of new facilities seeking licensing, your Board took the following action:

Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services (now the Director of Public Health) to:

- Conduct a full review of the health facility inspection process;
- Work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer (now the Chief Executive Officer) and County Counsel and negotiate with the State Department of Health Services (now the State Department of Public Health) on amending the County's licensure and certification contract No. 05-45391 with the State.

On June 29, 2006, I provided you with a review of the Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) and a discussion of the major problems its staff has faced over the past few years as a result of State budget cuts. On July 20, August 3, September 8, October 3, November 9, 2006, January 18, 2007, and April 19, 2007, I provided you with status reports.

State staff requested and received preliminary information upon which the contract budget and workload for FY 2007-08 would be negotiated. Although a specific workload for FY 2006-07 was never negotiated, State staff instructed our staff to begin processing applications for initial licensure and certification, such as for home health agencies, which had been the lowest priority for many years. In addition, our staff had been instructed to devote more resources to complaint investigations to be in compliance with a court order directing the State to diminish the backlog of complaints and initiate all new complaint investigations in a timely manner. The State approved a budget adjustment for FY 2006-07 to move salary savings into training, in order to train and certify new staff and anticipated new staff.

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Present Status

Since our last report, HFID has been able to fill 4 Health Evaluator positions that have offset 4 persons who have left the program. While the State approved a redirection of funds for FY 2006-07 for an additional 5 positions, further recruitment efforts have not been successful. Because the State is reconfiguring the contract into a 3-year agreement starting FY 2008-09, the State is deferring the 5 positions, until a new agreement is in place.

I will provide you with another update on this matter in 90 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:eap
PH:604:016(8)

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors